

after graduating from the University of Washington in June 1988 with a baccalaureate degree in Political Science. After completing the Medical Service Corps Officer Basic Course in November 1988, Colonel Avery was stationed in Kirchgoens, Germany as a Medical Platoon Leader for 4th BN, 32nd Armor, and 3rd Armor Division. From there, he went on to hone his leadership skills as he successfully completed numerous command and staff assignments at Fort Irwin, California; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Ansbach, Germany; Wiesbaden, Germany; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and Fort Benning, Georgia. In between his staff and command positions, Colonel Avery became a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot and a Master Navigator. He also completed numerous combat tours during his career. He deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina during Operation Joint Guard; to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; to Kosovo twice in support of Operation of Joint Guardian II; and to Iraq twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a respected and compassionate leader when Colonel Avery arrived in Ft. Benning, Georgia in June 2011 to serve as Commander of the Martin Army Community Hospital. In this capacity, Colonel Avery was instrumental in improving the lives and health of veterans in the Chattahoochee Valley. Colonel Avery's partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs resulted in the opening of a new 19,000-square foot Veterans Affairs Clinic at Fort Benning on July 6, 2015. The new VA clinic will improve access to health care for veterans, as well as its quality and cost effectiveness. The new clinic will offer a full complement of primary care providers with integrated mental health services which will serve more than 13,000 veterans and implement tele-health hubs to provide an additional 96 appointments per week.

Colonel Avery is the epitome of the U.S. Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, and Personal Courage. The new clinic would not exist today without Colonel Avery's personal courage, selfless service, relentless desire, and tireless duty to improve the lives of those who have fought to protect our cherished liberties. His loyalty and respect to the current and former servicemen and servicewomen is commendable and should be emulated by leaders in the military and in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, the Chattahoochee Valley community, and the 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring Colonel Scott B. Avery for his contributions to the veterans of Southwest Georgia. We extend our best wishes to Colonel Avery and his family in his next assignment and throughout his career as he continues to be a champion for veterans.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT
AUSTIN PERRIN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Austin

Perrin of Boy Scout Troop 218 in Shenandoah, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

For nine years Austin has dedicated his time and efforts to the Scouts. Not only has he excelled in Scouts, but he's also been a top-notch student and role model in the community. He represents his freshman class as their President and representative on the student council. He also participates in athletics and a number of different school related activities.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests organized by requirements and merit badges, and complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Austin built a 28-foot cedar gazebo at Priest Park in Shenandoah. His inspiration came from seeing young students waiting for the bus in the rain without any shelter. Now, each day that it rains, students have a dry place to wait for the bus.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his service to his community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Austin in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING GANNETT FLEMING

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to Gannett Fleming on the 100th Anniversary of their company's founding. Their record of accomplishment and longevity truly is exceptional and praiseworthy.

When Farley Gannett partnered with Theodore Seelye to form "Farley Gannett, Consulting Engineer" in Harrisburg on August 1, 1915, they laid the foundation for a company that would become a driving force in improving our communities through a commitment to growth, ethics and technical excellence.

Whether designing water supply and flood control dams to improve the quality of drinking water and reducing the risk of flooding, building highways that strengthen our economy and allow for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, or water and wastewater treatment plants that result in cleaner streams, Gannett Fleming's more than 2,000 employees maintain the tradition of excellence, innovation and responsiveness that began 100 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend Gannett Fleming and its employees for their work on military and public service projects, including the Cancer Institute and Children's Hospital at the University's Medical Center in Hershey. Additionally, their ongoing support of community and charitable organizations throughout the region is invaluable.

Congratulations once again to Gannett Fleming and their employees on this wonderful milestone. Best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLAIR HIGH
SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL
AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Clair High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing St. Clair High School for a job well done.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Older Americans Act, which President Lyndon Johnson signed into law on July 14, 1965.

Congress passed the Older Americans Act in response to concerns by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons.

The Older Americans Act is the major federal vehicle for the delivery of social and nutrition services for older persons.

It ensures seniors have transportation to medical appointments, the grocery store, adult day care and more.

It provides critical support and respite services to those caring for older adults—and, today, over 35 million Americans are family caregivers for older Americans.

The Older Americans Act also promotes health and well-being—helping manage diabetes, prevent falls, and improve behavioral health so seniors can live at home in their community.

The Older Americans Act has been serving our seniors and families well for half a century.

With 10,000 Americans turning 65 each day, we have an obligation to keep the Older Americans Act strong.

Just yesterday, President Obama spoke at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging to emphasize the importance of addressing aging issues and reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Across the country, older Americans are running businesses, helping to raise their grandchildren, serving as teachers, acting as mentors, and contributing their many talents for the better of their community.

I am committed to making sure that Americans are able to enjoy the secure retirement they deserve—whether they are already retired, are about to retire or are just starting out.

I will continue to work to protect and expand Social Security, improve health care affordability, and create affordable long-term care options.

Americans who have worked hard, raised families, and kept our country strong should be able to live their years in retirement with dignity and independence.

The Older Americans Act helps them do that by providing critical services to millions of senior citizens and their families.

Reauthorization of this important piece of legislation should occur as soon as possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote number 434. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

HONORING BEAR WALLOW DISTILLERY

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, small businesses across my district work every day to produce the goods and services needed to drive our economy, and today it is my honor to highlight one of them. My home state of Indiana has a long heritage of agriculture and manufacturing business, as well as a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation. One small business in Indiana's 9th District, Bear Wallow Distillery, sits at the center of these proud Hoosier traditions.

Bear Wallow Distillery, located in scenic and historic Brown County, Indiana, is a home-grown success story. Founded and still owned by Mike and Susan Spagnuolo, their craft distillery opened its doors in August 2014. In the year since, the company has expanded its initial offering of Hoosier-made moonshine to include bourbon and several different whiskeys; all crafted from locally grown and supplied ingredients. Operating a still and a serving room, Bear Wallow has served thousands of thirsty Hoosiers. Visitors can see the distillery operation on behind-the-scene tours and sample local foods as well as drinks.

Bear Wallow does its part to support our long tradition of quality craftsmanship. The company creates its signature spirits using a traditional copper still from another family-owned small business, Vendome Brass and Copper of Louisville, KY. The small-batch, handcrafted spirits that Bear Wallow produces are then aged in charred American White Oak barrels and served-up straight or as part of a cocktail. The business is known for its "Moonshine shake-ups," made with fruit elixirs and served in a tasting area featuring Prohibition-era decorations and a bare-wood bar made from locally milled red oak.

Bear Wallow refers to itself as "the first legal distillery in Indiana." The claim rings very true, as the success of Bear Wallow would not

have been possible even two years ago. Previous Indiana law prevented would-be entrepreneurs from operating small distilleries in the state. Following changes to the law in 2013, Mike and Susan Spagnuolo were on the front line pioneering this industry that is flourishing in Indiana's 9th District. Their small business, like so many others, is helping to create needed jobs, drive our local economy, and generate tourism throughout the state.

It is an honor representing entrepreneurs like the Spagnuolos who took a risk opening Bear Wallow Distillery. I hope their example serves to inspire other would-be entrepreneurs, and am pleased to highlight their good work today in this installment of Indiana's 9th District Small Business Spotlight.

CONGRATULATING SECKMAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Seckman Senior High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Seckman Senior High School for a job well done.

HONORING JOANNE LEINOW ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE DESERT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Joanne Leinow on her retirement after 28 years of service with the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program, whose mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

Throughout her nearly three decades of service, Ms. Leinow has been involved in with BBBS in both large and small communities, all across the country including Cincinnati, Ohio, Los Angeles, California, and most recently here in our desert. From her contribution in 1960, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to her work with the Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters in Los Angeles in the 1990s, and finally her most recent service over the past 9 years with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Desert, Ms. Leinow has made a tremendous impact on thousands of youth in our nation.

In 2002, Ms. Leinow was hired at the BBBS of the Desert to develop a site based mentoring program. Unfamiliar with the region, Ms. Leinow performed her BBBS "magic." In 2006

she was promoted to Partnership Development Director for her incredible job recruiting new volunteers, developing community and business partnerships, and making sure that the Coachella Valley community knew BBBS was the "go-to" agency for mentoring.

From the time Ms. Leinow became the Partnership Development Director in 2006, BBBS has seen a 108% increase in the number of children served, increasing from 333 children in 2006 to 555 in 2010.

Ms. Leinow's hard work and passion for public service does not go unnoticed. She has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Skip Walsh Award in 2011, which honors BBBS professionals who excel in the qualities of education, enthusiasm, and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Leinow's commitment to public service and particularly to stimulate children to overcome hardship through mentorship is an act of human kindness. On behalf of all those who have benefited from BBBS, and the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate Ms. Leinow for her exceptional commitment. I wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PERCIVAL LOWELL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce an article entitled "The Bostonian astronomer who dreamed of Pluto" that was published in the Boston Globe on July 12, 2015. Written by Ted Widmer, this article reviews the life and accomplishments of Percival Lowell, the Boston astronomer that had a tremendous impact on the discovery of Pluto. As the *New Horizons* spacecraft sped past that distant planet this morning, this article stands as a tribute to ensure we do not forget Percival Lowell's part in this great human achievement of innovation and exploration.

THE BOSTONIAN ASTRONOMER WHO DREAMED OF PLUTO

(By Ted Widmer, The Boston Globe)

This Tuesday, July 14, at 7:49:57 a.m. EDT, the *New Horizons* spacecraft will rendezvous with Pluto at a point in space nearly 3 billion miles from Earth. It's been a long strange trip.

New Horizons launched nearly a decade ago, on Jan. 19, 2006. It received a gravity boost from Jupiter in 2007, and has been cruising at more than 30,000 miles per hour ever since. It won't even slow down as it passes by the planet at the end of the solar system, but it will gather data and take photos as it screams silently by.

By 7:49:58, the moment will have passed, and *New Horizons* will be seeking new adventures in the Kuiper Belt.

For New Englanders, there are a couple reasons to feel proud of the fly-by. The mission is the first in the "New Frontiers" series, named after President Kennedy. And Pluto is something of a local concern. Though Pluto was formally discovered by a Kansan named Clyde Tombaugh in 1930, he was spurred to look where he did because of calculations made years earlier by a Bostonian astronomer, Percival Lowell.